

Message Text

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ORIGIN FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03
MCT-01 SY-05 ACDA-12 IO-13 ICA-11 /089 R

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-----047292 090320Z /73

P R 090041Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: FAA CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY SERVICE
MEETING TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT THREAT
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BRUSSELS FOR FAA
1. CRIMINAL ACTS CONTINUE TO THREATEN THE SAFETY OF CIVIL
AVIATION OPERATIONS. IN 1977, THERE WERE 30 AIRLINE

HIJACKINGS. THIS WAS MORE THAN IN ANY YEAR SINCE 1972.
THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN 6 HIJACKINGS THIS YEAR. ANALYSIS

SHOWS THAT 10 OF THE 30 AIR CARRIER HIJACKINGS (33 PERCENT) OCCURRED DURING 1977 IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA AND THAT 9 OF THOSE COULD BE ATTRIBUTED, AT LEAST IN PART, TO PASSENGER SCREENING DEFICIENCIES. WEAPONS WERE TAKEN ONBOARD AIRCRAFT THROUGH THE SCREENING SYSTEM (8 GUNS, ONE KNIFE, 2 GRENADES AND 3 OTHER EXPLOSIVE DEVICES). A 1977 TOTAL OF 69 WORLDWIDE CRIMINAL ACTS AGAINST CIVIL AVIATION RESULTED IN 129 DEATHS AND 68 INJURIES.

2. US CONCERN WAS EXEMPLIFIED IN SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION BROCK ADAMS' 11/3/77 APPEARANCE BEFORE A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL

CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION IN WHICH HE URGED THAT NATIONS REQUIRE SCREENING OF ALL PASSENGERS AND CARRY-ON ITEMS FOR ALL FLIGHTS.

3. ALTHOUGH THE THREAT TO CIVIL AVIATION EXTENDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, IT APPEARS TO BE GREATEST IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST ESPECIALLY THE MEDITERRANEAN

AREA. TERRORIST GROUPS IN THESE AREAS HAVE REPORTEDLY STRENGTHENED THEIR COORDINATION BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY THEREBY INCREASING THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTACKS AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TARGETS, AND MAKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES TO DEAL WITH THE TOTAL PROBLEM. THE NEED FOR RELIABLE COMMUNICATIONS AND JOINT UNDERSTANDING AND COORDINATED ACTIONS BETWEEN AFFECTED NATIONS IS OBVIOUS.

4. IN VIEW OF THIS HIGHER LEVEL OF THREAT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA, SPECIAL EFFORTS MUST BE CONCENTRATED IN THIS REGION. THE FAA, THEREFORE, PROPOSES TO HOST A ONE- TO TWO-DAY MEETING JUNE 7-8 IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THE THREAT/PROBLEM AND POSSIBLE MEASURES TO CONTAIN IT. THE MOST VITALLY AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN TERMS OF US FLAG AIR CARRIER OPERATIONS ARE MOROCCO, SPAIN, FRANCE, ITALY, GREECE, TURKEY, EGYPT, IRAN, PAKISTAN, INDIA AND ISRAEL. IT IS REQUESTED THAT ACTION POSTS BROACH PROPOSED CONFERENCE TO HOST GOVERNMENTS. WE ARE INTERESTED IN HAVING AS PARTICIPANTS APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR NATION'S CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY PROGRAM, E.G. DGCA OR STAFF REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNED CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY RESPONSIBILITY, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF AIRPORTS, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OR DEFENSE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICE

OR OTHER SECURITY OFFICERS ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PASSENGER SECURITY SCREENING OPERATIONS. BASED UPON THE RECENT INTEREST IN CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY EXHIBITED BY INTERPOL, POSTS MAY CONSIDER ALERTING THE APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT INTERPOL REPRESENTATIVE.

FAA ALSO CONSIDERING INVITING ICAO REPRESENTATIVE.

5. POSTS SHOULD POINT OUT THAT FAA WISHES TO STRESS PASSENGER SCREENING TECHNIQUES IN PROPOSED MEETING BUT WOULD WELCOME SUGGESTIONS FROM HOST GOVERNMENTS ON OTHER ASPECTS OF SECURITY FOR DISCUSSION AT MEETING. MEETING WOULD BE CLOSED AND FAA PLANS ON GIVING NO PUBLICITY TO IT. TWO TO THREE PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRY PREFERRED, BUT THERE IS NO ARBITRARY LIMIT

TO NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.

6. REQUEST POSTS REPLY BY MAY 12 GIVING HOST GOVERNMENT REACTIONS AND LIKELY PARTICIPANTS. FINAL DETAILS WILL BE CONFIRMED TO POSTS AFTER INITIAL REPLIES TO THIS MESSAGE HAVE BEEN REVIEWED.

7. POSTS RECENTLY VISITED BY FAA SECURITY PERSONNEL MAY QUESTION NEED FOR WASHINGTON MEETING AT THIS TIME. IF RAISED, POSTS SHOULD RESPOND THAT FOCUS OF WASHINGTON MEETING WILL BE TO EXPLORE PROBLEMS JOINTLY, RATHER THAN IN STRICTLY BILATERAL CONTEXT.

8. EXPENSES FOR TRIP WOULD HAVE TO BE INCURRED BY INVITEES.

9. FOR TEL AVIV: IN ITS DISCRETION, EMBASSY MAY ADVISE GOI OF PROPOSED MEETING. IF ISRAELIS RAISE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION, POINT OUT THAT WE CONSIDER ISRAELI SCREENING PROCEDURES ADEQUATE AND THAT FAA IS SATISFIED WITH CURRENT WORKING RELATIONS WITH ISRAELIS IN THIS AREA, HENCE SEES NO NEED FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, BE PLEASED TO

BRIEF THEM ON THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING AND TO CONSIDER ANY ADDITIONAL JOINT MEASURES IN THIS FIELD WHICH

APPEARED APPROPRIATE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 09 may 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Subject: CIVAIR: FAA CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY SERVICE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT THREAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: EAIR, FAA
To: RABAT ISLAMABAD MULTIPLE
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